signed a general agreement with V/O Technoexport to start a third project of intensive integrated exploration programme in a mutually agreed area in West Bengal on shore.

The Soviet Union has extended long term credits for the execution of these projects.

Reform in Electoral System

*292. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which Government have stated in Rajya Sabha that they would consult political parties before deciding about electoral reforms; and

(b) the date on which a former Law Minister, Shri Govinda Menon had stated in Parliament that Government were agreeable to the formation of a Speaker's Committee to examine the question of reforms in the electoral system?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

(b) 18th March, 1969.

Statement

The dates on which the Rajya Sabha had been informed in the current year (till 10th August, 1987) in reply to Questions that Government would hold consultations with the political parties on the proposals for electoral reforms are as under:—

2.3.1987	9.3.1987
13.4.1987	20.4.1987
27.4.1987	4.5.1987
27.7.1987	3.8.1987

Power shortage in the Country

*293. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) which of the States are deficit in power supply this year and which of them suffer from deficit of more than 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the demand;

(b) what special steps have been taken with regard to these heavily deficit States and with what outcome;

(c) whether it is a fact that the country-wise power deficit has been increasing during each of the last three years;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what are Government's plan to wipe out the deficit and make the country surplus in power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The information required is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(b) To mitigate the power shortage in the States, assistance is provided from Central stations and neighbouring systems to the extent possible.

(c) and (d) Power generation in the country increased from 156.6 billion units in 1984-85 to 187.6 billion units in 1986-87. On account of the demand for power outstripping the increase in availability, the shortage of power in 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 was 6.7 per cent, 7.9 per cent and 9.4 per cent respectively.

(e) The measures taken to improve the availability of power include expediting commissioning of additional

capacity, implementing short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses, and implementation of energy conservation and demand management measures.

Statement

Power supply position in States which had deficits between requirement and availability of power during April to July, 1987

States having shortage of less than 10 per cent:

Haryana
Jammu and Kashmir
Punjab
Rajasthan
Gujarat
Maharashtra (including Goa)
Kerala
Tamil Nadu
West Bengal
North Eastern Region

States having shortage of 10 per cent to 20 per cent:

Uttar Pradesh
Andhra Pradesh
Orissa

States having shortage of over 20 per cent:

Karnataka
Bihar.

Tamil Nadu Power Projects

*294. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has submitted any proposals to set up some power projects in the joint sector;

(b) if so, how many proposals were sent to Central Government for clearance in the past; and

(c) whether any of these proposals has been cleared by the Central Government, if so, what are the details of the projects cleared including the outlay and the capacity of the projects and the date by which power generation therein is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) The Government of Tamil Nadu had proposed the setting up of Extension Stage-III (2x210 MW) at the Tuticorin Thermal Power Station through a joint-sector company formed with the participation of a consortium of private industrialists. The proposal was examined by the Central Electricity Authority and their observations were conveyed to the State authorities in September, 1986. They were advised to submit a detailed project report which has not been received.

Prices of LPG Cylinders

*295. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 8 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th July, 1987 and state what prices have been fixed by Government for L.P.G. cylinders meant for domestic consumers and non-domestic commercial users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): The retail prices of LPG cylinders vary from place to place depending on freight, local levies etc.